

**SUMMARY MINUTES**  
**Parks & Recreation Commission**  
**Council Chambers**  
**April 26, 2010 at 5:00 p.m.**

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:03pm.
2. ***Agenda order changed per Chair's request. This became agenda item #3.***

Introduction of new commissioner, Alan Wilson.

- He is originally from Kansas. He has been in the area approximately six years. He is a physician at Verde Valley Medical Center. He attended medical school in St. Louis. He is looking forward to serving on this commission. (Wilson)

3. ***Agenda order changed per Chair's request. This became agenda item #4.***

Introduction of Dan Neimy, City Maintenance Superintendent.

- The team formally known as Parks Maintenance will now be reorganized with other maintenance divisions to form a new team titled City Maintenance Division. Dan Neimy, City Maintenance Superintendent, will oversee this team. Dan will be present at Parks and Recreation Commission meetings moving forward to discuss or answer any maintenance related issues. (Welsh)

- He started with the City in 2004 as the Streets Superintendent and will now be Superintendent of the City's new Maintenance Division. (Neimy)

4. ***Agenda order changed per Chair's request. This became agenda item #2.***

Roll call.

**Commission Present:** Chair Isom, Vice Chair DePaepe, Commissioner Decker (arrived at 5:19 p.m.), Commissioner Dick, Commissioner McElvain, Commissioner Muhl, Commissioner Wilson, Council/Commission Liaison, Cliff Hamilton

**Staff Present:** Andi Welsh, Administrative Services Director; Andrea Reyes, Administrative Assistant; Jim Driscoll, Interim Police Chief; Jim Windham, Senior Code Enforcement Officer; Rachel Murdoch, Recreation and Aquatics Supervisor

5. ***This item was inadvertently missed in numerical order and was discussed after item #8.***

Summary of current events by Chair, Commissioners, City Council Liaison, and Department Director.

- Gerhard Mayer is pending Council approval and appointment to this Commission. Council is expected to approve the appointment at the 5/11/10 City Council meeting. This newly appointed Commissioner would be seated for the May 24<sup>th</sup> Commission meeting. (Isom)

- The Barbara Antonsen Park will be on City Council's agenda for tomorrow. The intent is to send the project out to bid to get some real numbers for the project. The bid process is expected to take about 90 days. City Council will also discuss/address options for keeping Red Rock State Park open. It is difficult to come up with money for issues such as this. Does not believe this discussion will produce any final decisions it is just another step in the process of ideas and options to assist. Next week there will be three City Council meetings to discuss budgets. This is the second year the City is facing operating with a reduced budget. The alcohol in the parks policy is expected to go to the Council in June. They do not wish to rush this item up to the Council. City Council's action on this item is unknown at this time. (Hamilton)

- This past Friday she met with the NAU students who worked on the skate park retrofit design to allow for bikes and skateboards at the skate park. Their designs and suggestions will come to the Commission

for review. She will contact schools in the fall to discuss the possibility of students taking on our park needs study. The budget will determine if there is money to do something of this nature. We can use development impact fees for this project. (Welsh)

6. Public forum: (3 minutes per presentation)

- No items/issues were brought forward by member/s of the public.

7. Consent Items:

The consent portion of the agenda is a means of expediting routine matters that must be acted on by the Commission. All items approved will be done by one non-debatable motion passed unanimously. Any item may be removed for debate/discussion by any member of the Commission, Staff, or public. Items removed from the consent portion may be acted upon before proceeding to the next agenda item.

a. Approval of minutes: March 29, 2010

b. Approval to appoint Steve Muhl to the Friends of Posse Grounds Board as the Commission liaison.

▪Commissioner McElvain moved to approve all consent items. Seconded by Commissioner Dick. Action: Pass. Vote: Motion carried by roll call vote of (summary: Yes = 6, No = 0, Absent for vote = 1, Decker).

8. Presentation/discussion from Rachel Murdoch, Senior Recreation Coordinator, regarding the City's recreational programming.

- Over 1200 people attended the Celebration of Spring and the Earth Day event had 400-500 people. Congratulates Rachel for a job well done. (Isom)

▪Interviews for lifeguard staff were completed this week. Approximately 80% of all pool staff will be new. This is a positive new team. The pool will be open six days a week with closure on Fridays. This closure has no effect on recreation programs. Memorial Day and the Fourth of July will be free recreational swim days. The first aid room will also serve as an office for Rachel so that she can work at the pool to oversee staff and day-to-day operations. We are accepting registration for coed and men's softball leagues. Leagues are set to start in June provided there are enough registrants. If this season of softball is successful we will try to hold fall leagues. The community campout is set for June 4<sup>th</sup> at Sunset Park. This event will include a guided hike and guest lectures from the Forest Service and a local astronomer. We are trying to get local support from merchants for goodie bag give aways. Dog obedience classes have been very successful. These classes typically reach capacity before registration closes. Two new events this year were the dance event in February and the astronomy event. Reminds Commissioners that event photo galleries are displayed on our website. Tennis lessons started in March. Twelve youth participants enjoyed spring break tennis camp. We have two new tennis instructors Eric Meyers and Laura Cooper. An instructor who is interested in conducting an outdoor fitness program has approached us. This proposal is under review and discussion. We support programs that get people into our parks. It was not a goal of the department to offer new classes this summer, as this concept was not successful last summer. Our large one-day events have proven to be successful. The department will place efforts towards these special events and specialty classes that the public desires to have and assess the successfulness of such programs. (Murdoch)

- Will you have another dance? Was that event considered a success? (McElvain)

▪We will probably have the dance again in February of next year. The event was not a financial success. (Murdoch)

- We do not make money at these events. (Welsh)

- How do you resource ideas? (Muhl)

▪We use event ideas from other cities. Sometimes instructors bring ideas to us. We solicit ideas via our website and our email blasts. (Murdoch)

9. Discussion/possible action on an alcohol policy for the parks.

- A couple open houses on this topic have been held. (Isom)
- The interim police chief and code enforcement officer are here tonight to answer any questions. (Welsh)
- His perception is that people living near or in adjacent neighborhoods are very opposed to allowing alcohol in the parks. (Driscoll)
- If alcohol was allowed in the parks would City Codes be changed? (Isom)
- Code changes would be dependent upon the type of policy the City chose to adopt. (Windham)
- City code would need to be modified to allow for alcohol in the parks. (Welsh)
- Will supplemental police staff be available if this policy is approved? (Wilson)
- Whatever is approved must be managed and controlled. No statements or decisions have been made one way or the other yet. But safety is always the first concern. (Driscoll)
- Large events such as Jazz on the Rocks and Sedona Taste require a temporary use permit which has a police and fire review built into the process based on City codes. (Windham)
- What he hears is an overwhelming fear that people will become drunk and rowdy. (Wilson)
- Some large events are black tie affairs in which alcohol is served. These appear to be very controlled and he has not heard of people becoming drunk or rowdy. It may depend upon the nature of the event. (Windham)

**Opened to the Public**

- Brent Bitz, Sedona resident, President of Casa Contenta Homeowners Association:

Speaks in opposition to allowing alcohol in the parks. Reads a letter which represents 200 of their residents echoing his opposition.

**Closed to the Public**

- Staff indicated to neighbors of Posse Grounds that they would never bring this issue forward. City Council requested this topic be revisited and a recommendation be made by the Commission. Nothing precludes current or future City Councils from bringing this topic up again. (Welsh)
- He was a participant of the task force that looked into this policy at the request of City Council. A lot of work went into this draft policy. Recommends that a trial site and trial period be recommended to City Council. Recommends allowing non-profits only to participate in the test group. Believes taking a big step all at once is not a smart idea. (McElvain)
- Relates this to getting his kids to eat carrots. Take one bite at a time. Recommends placing restrictions on hours, event size and number of attendees. Does not want to see beer bashes in the parks. Nobody wants this and perhaps this would eliminate fears. (Wilson)
- Believes that the draft policy before them tonight is highly detailed and should offset general objections. Feels as though the Commission has done all they can do with this issue. Wonders if City Council will send this back to the Commission. Numerous letters have been received with strong public opposition. One letter in the packet indicates it represents 341 property owners. These owners claim their opposition is not based on the details of this policy but rather a belief that this will have an adverse impact on their neighborhoods. Maybe a more confined policy for all types of events is the answer. It seems practical to use the Special Event Liquor License Policy which already exists. (Dick)
- Expresses concerns that a trial period or experiments could be called successful but once the door is open modifications or request for modifications will arise. Assisted on the team that researched this issue. Research indicated that different cities run the gamut for allowing alcohol in the parks. One thing that

makes Sedona different is that all of our parks are adjacent to neighborhoods. There are impacts of lighting, noise and trash for just normal use of the parks. Allowing alcohol adds to these impacts. (DePaepe)

- Has visited many of our parks. Considers Sunset and Posse Grounds Park to be environments for children and families. This being said he believes that it is the responsibility of the Commission to promote and add value to City parks. He has been here 13 years and has attended many special events. He was impressed with the way alcohol at these special events has been regulated over the years. This process is very defining. This policy does not go off the deep end. Sees this policy being more applicable and a better fit for Jordan Park. Thinks we can find a way to test and tweak the policy to make it work. Never is a long time. He is a responsible drinker. Thinks the City is smart about recognizing problems that can be encountered. Does not want overreaction. Thinks we can improve upon the venues we have. (Muhl)

- The Sedona Historical Society was the first organization to request this of the City approximately 3-5 years ago. Asks Ron Maassen to speak to this topic. (Isom)

- Ron Maassen, Sedona Resident:

He represents one of the letters in their packets that opposes alcohol in the parks. Three to five years ago the Sedona Historical Society did request to have alcohol at a fundraiser in the Jordan home. This was intended to be very restrictive and within a confined space and only after normal hours of operation. The fund raising was a factor that played into their initial request. Since that time the Sedona Historical Society has a new board with new members. They do not have a dog in the race and they are not taking a stand one way or the other on this issue. They are okay with whatever the City decides. Even if the City opts to allow for alcohol in the parks they are not in favor of allowing alcohol at the weddings they host at Jordan Historical Park and Museum.

- If the original request from the Sedona Historical Society is not the same today as it was initially are there any other organizations that have a need for this? (McElvain)

- In the past two years no organizations have made a request to serve and/or sell alcohol in a parks facility. (Welsh)

- Recommends adopting option one until someone has a need or comes forward with a need. Vice Chair DePaepe seconds this. Both motion makers later rescind this motion. (McElvain)

- Recommends taking some kind of action based on the time spent discussing this topic. Recommends moving forward with a very restricted policy. (Wilson)

- Can we select Jordan Park as the test site? Hates to see this get turned down altogether. Recommends trying something rather than doing nothing. (Muhl)

- Is conflicted by this topic. Shares the concerns set in front of them. There seems to be a need for change to the current policy. Supports the concept of not mixing kids and alcohol. Would like to forward a request for consideration to City Council. Wants this Commission to be valuable to Council. Recommends one venue on a trial basis. (Decker)

- Is not supportive of picking one park/site believes this should be contingent upon a need. (Dick)

- Recommends ensuring safeguards and increasing the monetary deposits to avoid destruction of facilities. (Wilson)

- Deposits can be addressed via the Temporary Use Permit process with a bond collection. Some have been set at \$10,000 to address this very concern. (Windham)

▪Commissioner Dick moved to recommend to City Council that the City utilize the Special Events Liquor License Permit Policy already in place. Seconded by Commissioner Wilson. Action: Pass. Vote: Motion carried by roll call vote of (summary: Yes = 4, No = 3, Isom, McElvain and DePaepe).

▪Not convinced that a trial period or experiment will give them any real data for evaluating the success of this policy. (DePaepe)

▪Recommends special events be considered individually per venue. (McElvain)

▪This was a limited time frame to work within. There is nothing stopping City Council from amending or revisiting this topic. (Decker)

▪Reiterates that no organization has requested to use alcohol in the parks in the past two years. (Isom)

▪Believes that no requests have come forward because people know that the City's policy is currently no alcohol in the parks. (Muhl)

▪Weddings do not qualify under the Temporary Use Permit process. (Welsh)

▪Believes that weddings are celebratory in nature and can become rowdy. (Wilson)

▪Red Rock State Park allows wedding parties to have alcohol and there has never been any problem. (Dick)

▪There is no firm date when this will be reviewed by City Council. Tentatively it may be agendized for the June 11<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting. (Welsh)

10. Discussion/possible action regarding initial results from the Commission's pool task force.

▪This task force was formed via the request of City Council. The task force consisted of the following members, school district superintendent, president of the swim team, a user at large, a Commission representative, Director of Administration and the Recreation and Aquatics Supervisor. The City is financially challenged to offer different types of utilization of the facility. This task force worked hard to get the YMCA to run the pool. Was hoping to see the pool steered towards a competitive venue. The school has invited stakeholders to participate capitially. The YMCA backed out of an agreement to operate the pool. The City will be running the pool this summer. Feels this is back at ground zero. Individual stakeholders including the swim team are working with the school to develop utilization of the pool outside of City operations. (Decker)

▪Disagrees slightly with Commissioner Decker. Does not believe we are back at ground zero. Different programming, getting the school involved and getting all parties to look at the agreement in place is a very positive step in the right direction. Allowing the swim team to utilize the pool for practices without the City having to manage the usage is a big step. (Murdoch)

▪Congratulates the task force for a job well done. (Isom)

▪Asks that the Commission consider having the task force meet one more time to bring items to a close. Also asks that the Commission drive the relationship they want to have with the school district as it relates to pool operations. Further requests the Commission allow development impact fees to be utilized for adding pool attributes/upgrades. (Decker)

▪The City has given the school district a three-page list of requests to be considered as part of the pool reconstruction bond project. Believes the district will do their best to accomplish the requested items. The agreement we have for the pool is a partnership and we may contribute to the project. (Welsh)

▪We are getting a new pool. (Murdoch)

▪The new pool will feature zero wake, no kiddie splash area, upgraded locker rooms and the new pool will fit in the old hole. (Decker)

▪Feels that task force has done what they can do. She and Rachel cannot drive meeting topics but she is

willing to coordinate meetings if other task force members desire to do so. There is no money to make the pool a year round facility. (Welsh)

- This Commission has the opportunity to decide to add attributes to the pool. Asks if they want to pursue recommendation or options from the Commission or go with the list as developed by the Director of Administrative Services and the Recreation and Aquatics Supervisor. Believes the Commission should decide what they want to pay for. (Decker)

- Once project plans are finalized she is willing to call a task force meeting to review what the school district brings forth. There is no money to add upgrades to the pool. Even if we opt to use development impact fees it may be too late as this request was not included in original budget submissions. (Welsh)

- Asks if the pool project can be delayed. (Wilson)

- The district has to use the bond money within a certain timeframe so she does not believe the project can be delayed. Can request that the school district provide them with a project schedule and breakout of costs and upgrades but they are under no obligation to provide this information to the City. (Welsh)

- Recommends the City review the plans before the project gets too far. (Muhl)

- Recommends the task force meet one more time to develop a list consisting of must haves and bells and whistles wanted for pool upgrades. The Commission should then review this list. (McElvain)

- Budget meetings start next week. Budget caps will be set on 5/25/10. She can bring this request up to City Council. (Welsh)

- Recommends \$50,000 to \$100,000 from development impact fees get added to the budget. (Decker)

- Reminds the Commission that the pool construction project and/or upgrades are not an overtly public or recreational benefit overall. (Murdoch)

- Staff was directed to request a cap be set to utilize \$100,000 from Development Impact Fees to assist with pool improvements or pool amenities which are not covered by the school district's capital improvement project. This expenditure was not included in original budget requests, so Director Welsh can only attempt to get this request included in the budget discussion set to take place next week.

#### 11. Discussion/possible action on a Commission liaison to the Sedona Historical Society.

- Commissioner Wilson volunteered and was appointed as liaison. Indicates he may not be able to attend every meeting.

#### 12. Discussion/possible action on a Commission working team for the Parks and Recreation related elements for the Community Plan update process.

- Request a couple Commissioners to help review sections of this plan that are applicable to parks and recreation. The plan is 10 years old. It needs to be updated. Goals of the City have really shifted. These updates should include our vision for the next 10 years. Meetings would be in her office. She can work around their schedules. In the beginning they probably need to meet physically but later work efforts, suggestions and tasks can be done via e-mail. Voter approval of these updates is expected in 2012. There will be community outreach meetings and work projects over the next two years. (Welsh)

- Commissioners Muhl and McElvain volunteered and were appointed to serve on this working team.

#### 13. Future meetings and agenda items.

##### a. Reminder of meeting on May 24, 2010

- Thanks everyone for all their help and hard work over the years. He enjoyed serving on this Commission. (Isom)

- The Commission gives a standing ovation to Chair Isom for his efforts and dedication to this Commission.

- Reminds the Commission that Chair Isom will be recognized for his service at tomorrows City Council meeting. (Welsh)

14. The meeting adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

I certify that the above is a true and correct legal action report of the meeting of the Parks & Recreation Commission held on April 26, 2010.

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*Andrea Reyes, Administrative Assistant*